

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 3, 66-75, 79, 82, 85, 88-89, 92, 95, 98, 101, 104, 107, 110, 113, 116, 119, 122, 125, 128, 131, 134, 137, 140-146, 149, 152, 155, 158, 161, 164, 167, 170-176 and 177-184 will be pending in the application.

Claims 4-13, 15-16, 18-65 and 76 were previously canceled. Claims 1-2, 14, 17, 77-78, 80-81, 83-84, 86-87, 90-91, 93-94, 96-97, 99-100, 102-103, 105-106, 108-109, 111-112, 114-115, 117-118, 120-121, 123-124, 126-127, 129-130, 132-133, 135-136, 138-139, 147-148, 150-151, 153-154, 156-157, 159-160, 162-163, 165-166, and 168-169 are canceled herein.

New dependent Claims 177-184 are added, directed to the fiber material being selected from the group consisting of nylons and cellulose derivatives and depending from allowed claims. Support can be found, for example, at page 64, lines 1-4 of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Since Applicant believes that entry of the Amendment will place the application in condition for allowance, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested along with reconsideration and review of the claims on the merits.

Allowable Claims and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 3, 66-75, 79, 82, 85, 88, 89, 92, 95, 98, 101, 104, 107, 110, 113, 116, 122, 128, 131, 134, 137, 140, 149, 152, 155, 158, 161, 164, 167, and 170-176 are allowed. The Examiner also states that Claims 141-146 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant amends allowed Claim 3 to remove an inadvertent period within the claim and amends allowed Claim 89 to correct misspelled “farmed” to “formed”.

Regarding the objected to claims, Applicant submits that Claims 143 and 146 should also be allowable as written given that these claims are dependent upon Claims 137 and 140, respectively, which are allowed. Applicant submits that Claims 141, 142, 144 and 145 should also be allowable as they have been rewritten in independent form.

Response to Claim Objections

Claims 119 and 120 are objected to. The Examiner asserts that Claims 119 and 120 are identical, and requires appropriate correction.

In response, Applicant amends Claim 119, which contained an inadvertent error, to depend on allowable Claim 113, instead of depending on Claim 114. Thus, Applicants submits that Claim 119 should be allowable. Applicant also submits that Claim 125 which depends on Claim 119 should also be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claims 119-120.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

A. Claims 1, 2, 14, 17, 77, 78, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 87, 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 97, 99, 100, 102, 103, 105, 106, 108, 109, 111, 112, 114, 115, 117-121, 123-127, 129, 130, 132, 133, 135, 136, 138, 139, 147, 148, 150, 151, 153, 154, 156, 157, 159, 160, 162, 163, 165, 166, 168, 169 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as assertedly being anticipated by Pham et al. (US 6,426,050) (citing the Office action mailed 11/19/03).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/918,500

Atty. Docket No. Q65512

B. Claims 123-127, 135, 136, 138 and 139 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Pham et al. (US 6,426,050) (citing the Office action mailed 11/19/03).

In response, Applicant has canceled the rejected claims.

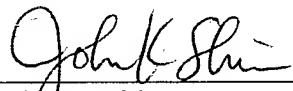
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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